

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

LIBERTY

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

MT. PISGAH CHURCH

Limestone Co., Ala.

September 15, 16, 17, and 18

1898

OFFICERS

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AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY

MINUTES
OF THE
Sixty-first Annual Session
OF THE
Liberty
Baptist Association

HELD WITH

Mt. Pisgah Church,

LIMESTONE CO., ALABAMA.

September 15, 16, 17 and 18, 1898.

LIMESTONE DEMOCRAT PRINT,
ATHENS, ALA.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- 1 Call to order by former Moderator.
- 2 Annual or introductory sermon.
- 3 Call for Church letters and enroll delegates.
- 4 Permanent organization by electing Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
- 5 Call for petitionary letters.
- 6 Correspondents and visitors.
- 7 Appointment of committee by Moderator.
 - (a) On religious services, to report on call.
 - (b) On synopsis of Church letters.
 - (c) On finance.
- 8 Call for report of standing committees.
 - (a) Committee on Mission.
 - (b) Committee on Education.
 - (c) Committee on Temperance.
 - (d) Committee on Religious Literature.
 - (e) Committee on Indigent Ministers.
 - (f) Committee on Prayer Meeting.
 - (g) Committee on Orphans' Home.
 - (h) Committee on Woman's Work.
 - (i) Report of Executive Committee.
- 10 Appoint a place for meeting.
- 11 Appoint a brother to preach the introductory sermon.
- 12 Announce standing committees to report at next meeting.
- 13 Appoint messengers to other bodies.
- 14 Miscellaneous business.
- 15 Report on Sunday Schools.
- 16 Adjournment.

— 10 —

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Harden, A. J.	Madison Station,	Webster, W. P.	Haden,
Abernathy, T. C.	Elkmont.	Rice, H. E.	New Market.
Mosely, A. G.	Louisville, Ky.	Lee, W. W.	Huntsville.
Jacks, W. F.	Plevna.	Taylor, L. W.	Huntsville.
Crutcher, N. D.	Madison.	Parker, A. J.	Deposit.
Hillard, J. W.	Rep.	Pettus, W. H.	Clintsville.
Baleh W. M.	Nebo.		

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

- 1 P. Hampton, Chairman; R. E. Pettus, Secretary; J. A. Fanning, H. E. Rice, T. J. Wall, W. W. Lee.

MINUTES.

The delegates composing the Sixty-first Annual Session of the Liberty Association of Missionary Baptists met with Mt. Pisgah church, Limestone county, Ala., on Thursday, September 15th, 1898, at 10 o'clock a.m.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Eld. J. A. Eaves after reading a lesson from 8th chapter of Romans. After half hour spent in singing and prayer an intermission was had of 15 minutes. According to appointment, Eld. H. E. Rice occupied the stand and preached the introductory sermon. The text was the latter clause of 9th verse of 8th chapter of Romans:

"Now if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." At the close of sermon prayer was offered by Eld. J. W. Sandlin. By a motion the Association adjourned for an hour and half for refreshments. Benediction by Elder J. W. Hilliard.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 1:30 p.m. the Association convened pursuant to adjournment.

The Moderator, Dr. J. P. Hampton, in the chair, and Perry Henderson at the clerk's table. Prayer was led by Elder W. W. Lee. The Moderator announced the Association ready for business; and appointed Elders W. W. Lee and J. W. Sandlin reading clerks.

The following churches were represented by letters and delegates, to-wit:

Beulah—J. W. Freeman, C. C. Carroll.

Dallas Avenue—Elder W. W. Lee, R. E. Pettus.

Charity East—J. D. Sharp, Arthur Price.

Huntsville (First)—Dr. J. P. Hampton.

Locust Grove—M. A. Miller, T. M. Bayless, Geo. Benson, J. J. Lawler.

Mt. Zion—By vote of Association was granted until to-morrow to revise their letter as to finances.

By motion Madison was re-instated and reported by delegates W. L. Haffley and G. H. Sadler.

Mt. Pisgah—E. E. Key, W. J. Baugher, Henry Collier, J. B. Collier, J. V. Linard.

New Market—Letter, but no delegate.

Piney Grove—Jesse Broadway, John Gatlin, W. N. Lewter, S. E. Gates.

Rice—Elder H. E. Rice, J. F. Power, W. T. Jones.

Round Island—Perry Henderson, C. T. McCormack, G. H. Stewart.

Union Grove—Frank Hornbuckle, G. W. Taylor, R. H. Taylor.

Bethel—Elder W. P. Webster.

Walnut Hill—J. P. Hodges, S. Cox, Will Arnold.

Charity West, Oakly, Pleasant Valley and Temperance Oak were not represented.

After enrollment of delegates the Moderator announced the first order of business was the election of Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.

By motion of Bro. R. E. Pettus the rules were suspended and the clerk authorized to cast the vote of the Association for Dr. J. P. Hampton as Moderator who was declared unanimously elected.

By motion of Elder W. W. Lee, Elder J. W. Hilliard was authorized to cast the vote of the body for Perry Henderson for Clerk and Treasurer, who was unanimously elected to fill said offices.

On call for Petitionary letters, Mt. Hope, by delegates T. E. Thorne and J. H. Shinpoch, presented a letter asking to become a member of Liberty Association, which was received and the right hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator on behalf of the members.

The following correspondents were present and invited to seats with us:

State Mission Board—Elder J. W. Sandlin.

Muscle Shoals Association—Dr. F. C. David and Elder W. T. Cobbs.

Danville School and Alabama Baptist—Elder A. W. Briscoe.

William Cary Association—Elder C. Kincaid.

Tennessee River Association—Elder J. A. Eaves.

Moderator appointed as committee on Religious service, to report on call—Elder J. W. Hilliard and the deacons of Mt. Pisgah church.

On synopsis of church letters—Brothers Richard Taylor, J. J. Lawler, C. T. McCormack.

To assist on report on State Missions—Elder J. W. Sandlin.

Elder W. W. Lee on Education.

Elder W. H. Pettus on Orphans Home.

Brother R. E. Pettus on Womans Work.

By motion of R. E. Pettus the reports on all Missions be heard to-morrow at 10 o'clock a.m. and discussions had then.

Report on prayer-meeting was read by Elder W. W. Lee.

REPORT ON PRAYER MEETING.

To the Liberty Baptist Association in session at Mount Pisgah, Limestone County, Alabama:

Our prayer meeting service is just what we make it, and will that it shall be. It is one of the sweetest and most important services that we engage in. It is a school in which christian workers train themselves, who expect to make life-long workers in the Master's vineyard. A leader of a prayer-meeting should prepare himself, and possess wisdom, skill and tact.

The pastor should appoint one of the brethren as often as possible to lead the meeting, he, however, being present to assist in the same.

Long passages of scripture, long talks, long songs and long prayers should be avoided.

Should a brother make the same talk or offer the same prayer every time, he should be counseled.

The exercises should be varied—sometimes announce at one meeting the passage to be considered at the next meeting, and let the members prepare to talk or listen intelligently. Never allow the meeting to drag.

Prayer is not a weak part of the gospel system. It can not only, by inherent force, hold its own position against all assaults, but it can furnish efficient support to other parts of the system of divine truth. If we had no written revelation on the subject of prayer, its necessity and duty could find satisfaction in man's constitution and condition, and in the relations he sustains to the God of nature and providence.

Gratitude for benefits conferred is a feeling nature has imparted in the human breast. Show man the danger he is exposed to, the wants which press him and the blessings that he needs, and let him feel that God alone can protect and bless him, and nothing is more natural than the language of petition. How often is it verified by the fact that wicked men, and even professed infidels and atheists, call upon God for help when suddenly pressed by danger or distress.

God pledges himself to co-operate with us who pray in faith and gives us the holy spirit to teach us to pray.

When we approach the throne of grace we must do so with humility, and yet in the strength of Christ, with boldness; forgiving if we have aught against any; in faith believing that God is, and that he is a rewarder of all who diligently seek him.

In ancient times prayer service was an important part of the worship of God. The temple was called "a house of prayer for all people."

We are commanded in the word of God to pray without ceasing and in all things give thanks. Solomon prayed for wisdom and understanding. Abraham prayed for Ambimeleck to be restored to health. Paul prayed for the father of Publins, and he was healed.

The Bible prescribes private, family and public prayer. For example:

Isaiah 56:7—I will make the people joyful in my house of prayer. I will accept their sacrifices on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.

Acts 12:5—Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

Acts 12:12—Peter came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

W. E. PETTUS,

L. B. GLAZE,

J. W. CARROLL, Com.

On motion to adopt, good speeches were made on the subject by Elders J. W. Hilliard, W. W. Lee and Brother R. E. Pettus, at the close of which the report was adopted.

The committee on Devotional Exercises reported that Dr. F. C. David would preach tonight at 7:30 and Elder A. W. Briscoe tomorrow at 11 a.m. and Elders W. T. Cobos and J. A. Eaves at Lebanon to-morrow at 7:30 p.m.

By R. E. Pettus—that we convene at 9:30 a.m., an intermission of one and half hours at noon and adjourn at will.

By motion adjourned.

Prayer by Elder J. W. Sandlin.

Dr. F. C. David preached at night to a large and appreciative congregation.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1898.

Association convened pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder W. H. Pettus.

Minutes of yesterday's proceedings read and adopted.

The Moderator announced as committee on finance, W. T. Jones, C. T. McCormack, J. V. Linard.

Letter from Mt. Zion church was read and delegates present, Elders J. W. Hilliard, W. H. Pettus, D. K. Wall, Lem Durham, G. A. Johnson, H. J. Hobbs.

Report on Foreign Missions read by Dr. J. P. Hampton.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Foreign Missions is one subject that has for more than one hundred years been discussed and urged upon all christians; but like the unbounded love of Christ, is not exhausted.

Christ says, "if you love me, keep my commandments." Again, "as my Father has sent me into the world, so send I you into the world"; and his last farewell command was, "go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Such plain commands makes all other motives entirely unnecessary.

The providence of God is especially seen in Foreign Missions, in the opening of doors, the removal of obstructions and in the preparing of the fields and the men for the work, and the means he uses to advance his cause and kingdom and make it a success.

It affords your committee great pleasure to say to you that at the last meeting of the Sonthern Baptist Convention, there was a surplus in the treasury of the Home and Foreign Board of Missions. This, brethren and sisters, was as it should be every year in the future, "for the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof," and if this state of things were to continue, it would soon enable the mission boards to send more laborers in the field.

We have in the foreign fields about seventy-six (76) Missionaries, and eighty-three (83) helpers, and one-hundred and fifty-nine (159) at work, and they should have an abundant support. Why not double our energies and our contributions, and increase this number of noble workers?

Good and encouraging reports come up from our missionaries, and from many of them comes the earnest appeal for more helpers in the work. The ladies in China, especially, are doing a splendid work. Brethren, when you look into this matter and see the many millions that have never heard the sound of the Gospel, does it not make your hearts ache in compassion for them. Brethren and sisters we commend this work of sending missionaries to foreign fields to you and ask your prayers and contributions to aid in carrying on this work in obedience to the command of our saviour Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

J. P. HAMPTON.

Home Missions read by Elder J. W. Sandlin.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The subject of Home Missions is one of the greatest subjects that will come before this Association.

Eternity can only tell the good that has been done by the Home Mission board, and the good work goes on.

From these Christian States of America, the world is watching and waiting to hear the glad tidings of salvation.

God has made it our duty to send the Gospel to all nations. Jesus said go into all the world and preach my Gospel to every creature.

We should rise up in solid ranks and wave the answer back to Heaven: By thy grace, we will.

As a State Board and as a Home Mission Board, we the Baptists of the United States are making great progress.

But, brethren, what we want and need is a better plan to carry on this great work of the Lord.

I think a good plan would be to do a better work in each church; a better work in each association; a better work in each State. Oh! let us see to it that our own Association has the Gospel preached to them. When this is done, like a mighty salvation army, will cross the mighty waters waving Christ's banner and the Lord God of hosts will be with us, for our Captain. Let us watch and fight, let us pray and pay, until we take the world for Jesus.

Fraternally submitted,

J. W. HILLIARD,

W. H. LOONEY,

J. T. CLIFT,

Committee.

State Missions read by Elder J. W. Sandlin.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee on State Missions beg leave to make the following report:

State Missions are the foundation of Home and Foreign Missions—through the untiring energies of the employees of the various State Boards the very gratifying reports of the Home and Foreign Boards at the last Southern Baptist Convention, were made possible. However, while assisting in bringing about these glorious results, our own State has been plunged headlong into debt. Therefore we recommend that each of the churches in this Association make a liberal contribution for this work, between this time and the 1st. of November, and forward the same to W. C. Bledsoe, Montgomery Ala., so that our Board may go to the convention free from debt.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. SANDLIN, Chairman.

Associational Missions read by Elder H. E. Rice.

REPORT ON ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

We your committee on Associational Missions report as follows: Having been with Brother Sandlin, the State Evangelist, to almost all the destitute places in this Association, we find Churches that need to be encouraged, others that need help, and other places where there is no Baptist preaching. Now we suggest that this Association make an effort to raise means, and in addition to what the State Board is doing let the executive board employ a suitable man and send him to the destination for such time as they have means.

Respectfully submitted,

H. E. RICE,

W. J. BAUGHER,

Committee.

Upon motion to adopt the various reports, a lengthy and profitable discussion was had by Dr. J. P. Hampton, Elders J. W. Sandlin and W. W. Lee, pending which the hour for preaching having arrived, a song was sung, and by appointment Elder A. W. Briscoe took the stand and preached an excellent sermon, from the text found in the 84th Psalm, 10th and 11th verses. "I had rather be doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."

At close of sermon, prayer was led by Dr. F. C. David.

By motion adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Benediction by Elder W. W. Lee.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association met pursuant to adjournment

Prayer led by Elder W. P. Webster.

The subject of Missions was resumed and discussed by Brother R. E. Pettus, Elders H. E. Rice, C. Kincaid, W. T. Cobbs, A. W. Briscoe, F. C. David, J. W. Hilliard. At close of the discussion a collection in cash and pledges was taken as follows:

PLEDGED BY CHURCHES.

Madison	\$ 8 00	Dallas Avenue.	\$ 50 00
Beulah.	2 50	First Church, Huntsville	200 00
Bethel . . .	2 50	Locust Grove	10 00
Charity East	3 00	Mt. Pisgah	10 00
Piney Grove	5 00	Mt. Zion.	20 00
Rice	20 00	New Zion .	10 00
Round Island	10 00	Mt. Hope	3 00
Walnut Hill	5 00		—
		Total	\$359 00

SUBSCRIBED BY INDIVIDUALS.

J. W. Hilliard		\$ 5 00	Mrs. Susan Lappington	\$ 50
Miss Laura Puryear	....	50	“ S. A. Thorne	50
T. B. Collier	....	50	Mrs. W. J. Baugher	1 00
W. H. Pettus	....	50	“ Martha Collier	50
T. C. Abernathy	....	50	“ M. F. Linard	1 00
A. Price	....	50	“ G. H. Stewart	1 00
W. P. Webster	....	50	“ M. F. Puryear	1 00
J. F. Powérs	....	Pd 1 00	T. B. Glaze	25
G. A. Johnson	....	Pd 25	Maggie Durham	Pd 50
J. B. Boyl	....	Pd 10	E. L. Rogers	Pd 25
T. M. Bayless	....	Pd 1 00	C. H. Pettus	Pd 1 00
J. D. Sharp	....	Pd 25	D. K. Wall	1 00
Mrs. Jennie Key	....	1 00	W. L. Hafley	Pd 1 00
Miss Annie Collier	....	1 00	Congregation	Pd 1 65
“ Carrie Knowles	....	1 00		
Total.				\$24 75

The report on Missions was adopted.

New Zion reported by letter and delegates, M. R. Gooch and J. T. Clift.

Elder W. W. Lee made a talk on the condition and prospects of Madison church and other points of destitution, suggesting that every pastor in the Association do as much as two weeks voluntary mission work during the ensuing year, subject to the direction of the executive board, which was endorsed by the Association. Elders H. E. Rice and J. W. Hilliard approved the plan, agreeing to place themselves at the disposal of the board.

Committee on devotional exercises reported that there would be a business session of the Association tonight.

Elder J. A. Eaves would preach at 11 a.m. to-morrow. Elder W. W. Lee at 7:30 p.m. to-morrow.

Adjourned until 7:30 p.m.

Prayer by Elder W. W. Lee

NIGHT SESSION.—7:30 P. M.

In the absence of the Moderator and Clerk, Brother R. E. Pettus occupied the chair as Moderator pro tem, and Elder W. H. Pettus as Clerk. The congregation joined in the song, “Jesus, Lover of My Soul.”

Elder J. W. Hilliard proposed that we offer special prayer to the Lord to send more preachers in this part of the vineyard. An able prayer was then led by Dr. F. C. David.

Report on Education read by Elder W. W. Lee.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

It is a matter of rejoicing among us that God has so abundantly blessed us in all our educational interests. A century ago the Baptists were poor with few educational institutions, but God has blessed their efforts until now they lead all other Protestant denominations in the United States.

In North Alabama, we have the North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute and Normal School at Danville, Ala., of which Dr. Joseph Shackelford is the president. Howard College is gaining new strength and life, the bonded debt is arranged for and the faculty assumes the responsibility of paying the interest. The college is the property of the Alabama Baptist State Convention. It was chartered in 1841. It has twice been destroyed by fire, but each time has been rebuilt stronger than before. Its location now bids fair to be of great advantage as Birmingham grows in importance. We should be more loyal to Howard. We cannot afford to neglect it. The past year there were thirty-two ministerial students in the college, all of whom received tuition free. For further information write President F. M. Roof, East Lake, Ala.

Judson Female Institute is the pride of our State. It is the best Female Institute south of Virginia, and ranks with the best Virginia colleges and is so acknowledged North and South. Wherever you go people know of the Judson. It is out of debt and is one of the best equipped institutions in the South. It refuses to cut rates to secure patronage because it gives value received for all it asks. Our people are fast learning that they get a cheap grade of education when they send to a cheap school.

The Judson has always been well patronized and the next session seems likely to be better than any in the past. This Association has been the loser by not patronizing the Judson more.

The greatest of all our institutions of learning is the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, at Louisville, Ky. Last session there were three hundred and two students matriculated, of whom sixteen were from Alabama. This is the largest institution of its kind in the world. It stands as a bulwark for orthodoxy. The Baptists North as well as South love it for its orthodoxy and devout spirituality.

The great controversy is now settled and all things seem to point to a glorious future. There has been much written and said about the fact that last year in the bounds of the Southern Baptist Convention the Baptist baptized 98,000 upon a profession of faith, while our Methodist brethren who for a century have been keeping pace with us and are still next to us in soul-winning, baptized only 16,000, infants and all. I mention this to show that our educational

institutions and an educated ministry are telling fast in the work of soul-winning.

No money has ever been more wisely and profitably expended, than for ministerial education. This in our State is now under direction of the Board of Ministerial Education of which W. A. Hobson, of East Lake, is president. There is no excuse now for any young preacher not going to school on account of poverty. Any one who will may now obtain an education to preach the Gospel.

Respectfully submitted,
W. W. LEE,
G. W. TAYLOR,
Committee.

NOTE—As the report on Danville School was not at hand the Clerk deems it in place to here insert the same.

REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF DANVILLE SCHOOL.

The Board of Trustees of the Danville School, offer this their Sixth Report to the Liberty Association:

The school closed its fifth session in May last with a total enrollment of 118 students. The prospect was very encouraging at the commencement of the session, but unfortunately the close of the session marked a decided falling off in attendance. Prof. Kilpatrick withdrew and the trustees elected Dr. Jos. Shackelford the former President as principal with the privilege of selecting his own assistants.

He is an old and experienced teacher and fully competent to teach all the branches taught in the school, assisted by his daughter, Miss Emma. Miss Susie will continue to have charge of the music. The school has opened with an enrollment of 40. We hope soon to increase this number very materially.

The rates of tuition have been reduced and board is quite low, We need the support of Baptists. We most earnestly ask every minister in the Liberty Association to aid us by sending pupils to the school. The President of the school offers one scholarship to the Liberty Association. The Executive Board of the Association will select the man or young lady who may wish to attend. This scholarship gives free tuition in the literary department for one session of 9 months. We wish to improve our building and we ask the Baptists of Liberty Association to help us. The terms of the following trustees expire at this session of your body, viz: Dr. J. P. Hampton and T. N. Wall. Their places will have to be filled by their re-appointment, or the appointment of others.

Respectfully submitted,
Jos. SHACKELFORD, President.
T. L. BAKER, Secretary.

Elders W. W. Lee, J. W. Sandlin and A. W. Briscoe made able speeches on the importance of education, especially on an educated ministry. Elder A. W. Briscoe very forcibly presented the claims of the Danville School on the Baptists of North Alabama. Brother Briscoe represented at all times the interest of the Alabama Baptist, our denominational paper.

Brother R. H. Taylor offered Brother W. P. Webster a free scholarship at Danville.

Brother R. E. Pettus spoke on behalf of the Judson. At close of the discussion the reports were adopted.

A collection was taken for Danville school building which amounted to \$6.50.

Adjourned. Prayer by Elder H. E. Rice.

THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 9:30 A.M.

Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder H. E. Rice.

Minutes of yesterday's proceedings read, corrected and adopted.

Committee announced by the Moderator to nominate executive board consisting of Brothers W. J. Baugher, G. W. Taylor, D. K. Wall.

As the subject of Education was discussed last night, cash and pledges were taken for ministerial education as follows:

Beulah.....	\$ 1 00	Mt. Hope	\$ 1 00
Bethel.....	2 00	Piney Grove.....	2 00
Dallas Avenue.....	15 00	Rice	2 50
First Church, Huntsville	50 00	Round Island	2 50
Locust Grove	5 00	Union Grove	5 00
Mt. Pisgah.....	1 00	Madison	2 00
Mt. Zion.....	56 00		
Total.....			\$145 00

INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES.

W. N. Lewter.....	\$ 50	G. H. Stewart.....	Pd \$ 50
J. J. Lawler.....	Pd 1 00	T. M. Bayless.....	Pd 1 00

Total Churches..... \$145 00

Total Cash..... 50

Total Individuals..... 2 50

Grand Total..... \$148 00

Report on Intemperance, read by J. V. Linard.

REPORT ON INTEMPERANCE.

Brethren of the Liberty Association:

Just one year ago I was appointed with two other brethren upon the committee to write on Intemperance, this terrible monster, the greatest agency employed by Satan to drag the souls of the inhabitants of earth down to perdition. The church has been fight-

ing this, the greatest of all curses, as far back as memory goes, but it has only been a battle of words with nothing to back up its sincerity in the way of determination to eradicate the evil. What would be the result if every Christian would band themselves together to blot out the whiskey traffic, by voting for no man or party that would not use their influence to kill the license law. We have got to come to this before we will ever be noticed or feared by whiskey dealers. Just so long as we depend upon condemnation and abuse only, just so long will the whiskey seller point the finger of scorn and contempt and the devil laugh in derision at our weakness and folly.

I claim that no one has any right to the appellation of christians who will not vote for Christ in preference to voting for his opposite, the devil, and I also claim that no man's name should be allowed to remain on the church book of a Christian organization that will not give up party affiliations, which is worldly, and cast his vote to destroy the power of Satan, and build up the cause of Christ. If he will serve Mammon his name should not desecrate the pages whereon is inscribed the names of true Christians. To some this remedy may seem radical, but remember we are dealing with the most radical curse of the world, and it will require radical measures to check its onward march. Then let us, the Baptists of Liberty Association, take the lead in an effort to build up a temperance army and invite every Christian of every denomination to join us, turn our backs upon all parties, place a temperance ticket in the field from President to Magistrate and by the help of God and united effort victory will be ours. And when our duty is done and the course of life is run, the last hour of our probation ended, we can look back on our efforts to stay the tide of crime, and the drunkard from eternal destruction with high and holy satisfaction.

Angels will whisper in our ears of men redeemed from vice and crime and by our hands plucked as brands from the eternal burnings.

This is a work of prevention and cure,
A work for the rich and the poor,
A work that's slow, and yet sure,
A work whose effects will endure,
Then shout for it hearer and preacher,
Shout for it master and man,
Shout for it scholar and teacher,
Praise it wherever you can.

J. V. LINARD.

Good speeches were made by Brother J. V. Linard. Elders W. W. Lee, J. W. Sandlin, G. Kincaid.

Pending the discussion the hour for preaching having arrived Elder J. A. Eaves took the stand, and preached from the text "Marvel not that I said unto you, ye must be born again," John 3rd chapter and 7th verse.

At close of sermon prayer was offered by Elder W. W. Lee,
On motion adjourned for one hour.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—1:30 P. M.

Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder C. Kincaid.

By motion the report on Intemperance was adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO NOMINATE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

We your committee to nominate an Executive Board would respectfully recommend Dr. J. P. Hampton, R. E. Pettus, J. A. Fanning, H. E. Rice, T. J. Wall, W. W. Lee.

Respectfully submitted.

D. K. WALL,
W. J. BAUGHER,
G. W. TAYLOR.

Adopted.

Report on Religious Literature read by Elder W. H. Pettus.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

Religious literature is cheap, good and plentiful. But it is distressing to see how little interest our people take in it. Our reports show very few religious papers taken. Many who claim to be unable to take a religious paper, take from one to three secular papers. This is both the cause and effect of our spiritual coldness and carelessness toward all our religious matters. Whenever our papers are read there is loyalty, liberty and growth. There is no reason why any one should not have a religious paper. We recommend the Alabama Baptist, Our Home Field and The Foreign Mission Journal, and all our Baptist papers throughout the South. We would further urge the pastors to lay greater stress upon this important subject, and earnestly labor to secure subscribers to good Baptist papers and especially those recommended in this report.

Respectfully submitted,
W. H. PETTUS,
T. E. THORNE.

Adopted.

Report on Orphans Home read by Elder J. W. Sandlin.

OUR ORPHANAGE

Was temporarily located at Evergreen, January 16, 1893. The first inmates were received into it March 3, 1893.

The present Financial Secretary was asked to take the local management of it without salary, he being then pastor at Evergreen. By November of that year we had received 22 children, and the Trustees decided to locate it permanently. After duly advertising in the Alabama Baptist for bids for a location, Evergreen was chosen and property purchased consisting of 80 acres of land, 30 acres of which is in farm, 30 in pasture and 20 in woods. The purchase price was \$5000, which with interest on deferred payments amounted to \$5400.33. This debt was promptly paid. The buildings were a ten room brick house and three tenant houses.

Important and much needed improvements have just been added, giving us another brick building with eleven rooms, adequate water works and a complete system of sanitarian. These improvements cost about \$3500 and are all paid for except about \$400. We owe also about \$400 on our rent expense account.

Since the Home was started there have gathered into it 43 boys and 51 girls, and out of it have gone by apprenticeship 2 boys, returned to their people 7 boys and 7 girls, by adoption 11 boys and 11 girls; one boy has died and two boys have been irregularly discharged, leaving in the Home 20 boys and 33 girls.

These children came from twenty-one counties, as follows:

Antauga.....	2	Escambia.....	11	Montgomery.....	4
Barbour.....	3	Jefferson.....	12	Pike.....	2
Bibb.....	2	Lee.....	6	Russell.....	1
Butler.....	3	Limestone.....	1	Talladega.....	8
Chambers.....	1	Marengo.....	4	Tallapoosa.....	2
Conecuh.....	2	Monroe.....	4	Tuscaloosa.....	11
Covington.....	8	Morgan.....	3	Walker.....	6

We desire to dedicate the Home Oct. 20th, free from debt. We trust all friends will aid us in paying these balances so this can be done.

JOHN W. STEWART,
Financial Secretary.

The subject was spoken to by Elder J. W. Sandlin, and Brother R. E. Pettus. At the close of which a collection was taken for the Orphans Home amounting to \$10.25.

The report was adopted.

Committee on Devotional Exercises reported that there would be preaching to-night at 7:30 at Lebanon by Elder J. W. Sandlin To-morrow at 9:30 Sunday-school mass-meeting and at 11 a. m. preaching by Elder J. W. Sandlin.

Committee on Woman's Work read by R. E. Pettus.

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

Among the many noble spirits who are sacrificing their time, their talents, and even their lives in the elevation and salvation of mankind throughout the Christian world, there are no names that shine out with more resplendence, than those of our Christian women, who are banded together in our different churches. Man in these civilized and Christian times, now recognizes woman as his helpmeet, as his equal and certain duties are assigned her for which she is pre-eminently qualified to perform. The highest encomiums were pronounced upon woman and her works by the Saviour while here upon earth. Of the poor widow he said, "She hath cast in more than they all," that "She of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had," and Mary who had so lovingly anointed him for his burial he said, "Verily I say unto you wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, then shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her."

In Christian work woman has always had a conspicuous place, and since the cry comes up from everywhere from the male members of the church, that pressure of business prevents them from doing their Christian duty, it is a Godsend that the women are awaking to the demands of the times.

Women in their Missionary Societies, in their Aid Societies and in the W. C. T. U., are doing a grand and noble work, that is as far-reaching as it is invaluable. Many of our dead churches who pay nothing to the support of their pastors, nor to the cause of missions would find that if they would organize their most consecrated women into these societies that they would be surprised at the vitality infused into them. Note, if you please, the churches of this Association that have their women banded together to do Christian work, how they are alleviating the distressed, and ministering to the needy and are sending the gospel to the heathens, and then say you whether or not it pays. My brethren and sisters, lift up your eyes, and you may see another stadium of history advancing. Its aim will be to realize the Christianity of Christ himself, which is about to renew its youth by taking to heart the Sermon on the Mount. He that sitteth on the Throne is saying: "Behold, I make all things new. This earth is yet to be redeemed, soul and body, with all its people's occupation and interests." We now stand upon a pinnacle of duty and opportunity, which if realized and the proper efforts are put forward we will see that,

"Out of the shadow of night,
The world moves into the light,
It is daybreak everywhere."

Note, if you please, the rapid progress that this feature of the churches' work has made since its recent organization.

In 1861 there was but one Woman's Missionary Society in the United States, but now there are over thirty, sustaining 1,219 missionaries, of whom ninety-seven are physicians and an income last year of \$1,331,952. Of the four leading societies—Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational and Baptist—the total of receipts since their organization is \$15,998,649.

Now sister, have you not made up your mind that you will join this holy band and "be doers of the word, and not hearers only?" May God help and bless you. Respectfully,

R. E. PETTUS.

Adopted.

Report on Young Peoples' Work read by Elder W. H. Pettus.

YOUNG PEOPLES' WORK.

We are very sorry to report that to most of our churches the young peoples work is a thing just heard of.

We also note with sorrow that among some of our people there is a prejudice against the work.

Brethren, these things ought not to be for it's a fact that where our B. Y. P. U. has been kept up it has done as much to enlighten our young people as most anything you can refer to. And how can we expect them to take much interest who are but poorly informed. Therefore we most earnestly ask our people to lend a helping hand to this most benevolent work. Respectfully submitted.

K. O. WALL,
Committee.

An able speech was made on the subject by Elder J. W. Sandlin and the report was adopted.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Brother R. E. Pettus stated that the Board had had no meeting, consequently there was nothing to report, and that the Finance Committee had audited his book.

Resolution by R. E. Pettus :

MEMORIAL.

WHEREAS, God in his wisdom has called home our sainted brother, Deacon Joseph Atkins, of Mt. Zion Church, after he had finished his life-time work, therefore,

Resolved, That we as an Association desire to put on record an expression of our appreciation of this grand old man's good work. He was an earnest, eager Baptist from principle, and the thought of his life was to benefit his fellows. For thirty-five years he was the Sunday School Superintendent of the same school and Deacon in Mt. Zion Church 46 years. He was also for a number of years a

member of the Executive Board of this Association. May God bless his host of grandchildren and great grandchildren who yet survive.

Adopted and ordered spread upon the minutes.

SYNOPSIS OF CHURCH LETTERS.

We your committee on Synopsis of Church Letters, submit the following:

'Tis with much pleasure that we note that some of our churches who for several years failed to be represented, have reported this year by letter and delegates full of the missionary spirit, and ask to be represented in our body.

We are also gratified to note the petitionary letter and acceptance of the same of Mt. Hope church. One of our churches (Oakley) has disbanded and joined other bodies, and several others are not represented at this meeting. The present membership is greatly increased since the last meeting. The spiritual condition has been greatly elevated, especially of the churches who have regular prayer meeting. We insist that the only way to keep up the spiritual interest of the church is to continue faithful in the work of the prayer meeting and Sabbath School. We also note that several churches invite the Association to meet with them next year. We especially note the earnest and continued call of the Church at Piney Grove, and as the unfortunate widow received her request at the hands of an august judge, who neither feared God nor regarded man, but granted it because by her continual coming she might worry him, we feel that the church at Piney Grove ought to take courage when they remember this and that the promise is to the faithful.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. TAYLOR,
J. J. LAWLER,
C. T. McCORMACK,
Committee.

Adopted.

FINANCE REPORT.

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report that we have received from the churches cash and vouchers as follows:

Vouchers for all purposes.....	.....	\$368 40
Cash for all purposes.....	.....	166 18
Total.....	.....	\$534 58

For the distribution of the vouchers and cash for the different objects we refer to table of Financial Exhibit.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. JONES,
C. T. McCORMACK,
J. V. LINARD,
Committee.

Adopted.

The place of meeting in 1899 was then brought up, Piney Grove, Beulah and Rice were put in nomination. Brother H. E. Rice on behalf of Rice church yielded her claims in favor of Piney Grove, as also did Brother Freeman as to Beulah on account of her having the preference. So Piney Grove was unanimously chosen as the place to meet on Thursday before the third Sunday in September 1899. Elder W. W. Lee was chosen to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder H. E. Rice, alternate.

Correspondent Messengers to other bodies were elected as follows:

Southern Baptist Convention—R. E. Pettus, alternate, Elder H. E. Rice.

State Convention—Dr. J. P. Hampton, Elder H. E. Rice, Perry Henderson, J. A. Fanning and R. E. Pettus.

Muscles Shoals Association—Dr. J. P. Hampton.

Wm. Cary Association—Dr. J. P. Hampton.

Marshal Association—W. T. Jones.

Resolution by R. E. Pettus—That the contributions in pledges for 1899 for Ministerial Education, be equally divided between Bros. W. H. Pettus and W. P. Webster—carried.

Announced by Moderator—That there would be no business session or preaching at this Church to-night.

On motion adjourned. Prayer by Eld. J. W. Sandlin.

FOURTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SUNDAY MORNING, SEPT. 18.

Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer led by Bro. J. V. Linard.

Minutes of yesterday read and adopted.

The Moderator announced committees to report at next meeting, as follows:

STANDING COMMITTEES.

On Foreign Missions—Elder W. W. Lee, T. M. Bayless, R. H. Taylor.

On Home Missions—J.C. Jones, Eld. A.J. Parker, W.P. Webster.

“ State Missions—R. E. Pettus, J. A. Erwin, A. A. Baker.

“ Associational Mission—Eld. J. W. Hilliard, N. D. Crutcher, D. K. Wall.

On Education—M. B. Neece, G. W. Johnsen, J. J. Lawler.

“ Temperance—W. E. Pettus, W. L. Hafley, W. J. Baugher.

“ Religious Literature—Eld. H. E. Rice, G. W. Taylor, J. M. Riddle.

On Orphans Home—W. H. Pettus, R. L. Tribble, J. W. Lewter.

“ Woman’s Work—Mrs. M. B. Neece, Mrs. J. C. Jones, Emory Pierce.

On Young Peoples’ Work—S. R. Butler, Miss Mary Glenn, Frank Bunnell.

On Prayer Meeting—J. V. Linard, T. C. Abernathy, L. B. Glaze.

“ Sabbath School—Dr. J. P. Hampton, J. D. Foster, J. H. Hammett.

On Indigent Ministers—A. J. Parker.

REPORT OF CLERK AND TREASURER.

PERRY HENDERSON, In Account with Liberty Association 1897-8.

Nov. 1897	To cash Ministerial Education, by Sister Emily Easter	\$ 1 00
Sept. 17, '98	To Vouchers for all purposes as re- ported by Finance Committee	368 40
	To cash for State Missions	45 55
	For Home Missions	2 50
	Foreign Missions	36 85
	Associational Missions	1 15
	Ministerial Education	33 80
	Howard College	11 73
	Orphans Home	11 00
	Printing.	21 60
	Public Collection Orphans Home	10 25
	Sister F. M. Price, St. M	2 00
	" Bessie Bedingfield, St. M	1 00
	Clerk's Fee	2 00—548 83

Cr.

Nov. 1897.	By cash to R. E. Pettus, Education,	1 00
Sept. 17, '98.	Vouchers Executive Board	\$368 00
	Cash State Mission	43 55
	Ministerial Education	33 80
	Howard College	11 73
	Associational Mission	1 15
	By cash paid J. W. Sandlin for State Missions	5 00
	Foreign Missions	36 85
	Home Missions	2 50
	Orphans Home	21 25
	To Clerk's fee \$2, Printing 21 60	23 60—548 83

Fraternally submitted,

PERRY HENDERSON,

Treasurer.

Adopted.

By a motion made by R. E. Pettus, the clerk was authorized to draw on the Executive Board for whatever balance was needed for printing.

Resolution of thanks, by R. E. Pettus.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS.

Resolved. That this body, filled with gratitude, tender to this

faithful band of God's children, and to their noble and generous friends, members of other denominations, who have made our stay in their midst so welcome and so hospitable, our sincere appreciation for these temporal blessings and comforts, and,

Resolved further, That we will pray for their success in Zion, for their growth in Grace and for the salvation of their households when we return to our respective homes.

R. E. PETTUS,

Adopted.

The congregation then arose and sung a song at close of which the report on Sabbath Schools was read by R. E. Pettus.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

In this enlightened day of Christian work and organization it is needless to argue the benefits derived from a well conducted Sabbath School. Sabbath teaching was indulged in and recommended by the Savior as is evidenced by the fourth chapter of Luke, the thirteenth chapter of Acts.

To those who are actively engaged in this glorious work it is sad and disheartning to them to see the utter indifference manifested on the part of those who claim to know the Lord. To be convinced of the existing facts read some of the letters sent up by the churches to this Association. For instance, one church has a membership of 392 and an enrollment of less than an hundred in its Sunday School, another has a membership of 240 with an average of 67 on Sabbath School roll, others with memberships with from 60 to 100 who have from 25 to 40 on their Sunday School rolls, and still others who report no Sunday Schools. Brethren what is the trouble? Do those who do not attend the Sunday School oppose this department of church work? We think not. It is reasonable to expect each church member to attend Sabbath School and work to induce others to enlist. If such a happy time should come we would easily have in the Sabbath Schools of this Association tenfold more pupils. We long to see the time come when we shall learn and realize that the Sunday School is not only to instruct children in the ways of the Lord, but every living man and woman. There is really now no excuse for any to be without the pales of the Sabbath School. The invalid at home, the tired mother at home and all who are hindered from going to the house of God to study his word, now can be furnished literature by the Home Department. They only pledge themselves to study the lesson at least a half hour each week, "so that they are without excuse, because that when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their

imaginings, and their foolish heart was darkened."—(Rom. 1-21.) My brethren "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."—(Gal. 6-7.) The Master has no place in his vineyard for idlers if he had had no need for them he would not have "set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers,"—(1 Cor. 12-28.) It apperrs thus that a variety of gifts are bestowed by the Lord, upon the members of his church, and that teaching is one of these gifts. God hath appointed some to be teachers. Apostles, evangelists and pastors are also teachers, that is, the gift of teaching is associated with their offices, but separate and apart from these, there was also in the early church a recognized body of "Teachers," and this body of teachers remain in the church to this day. Brethren, teaching is your work, that is pre-eminently the work of the Sabbath School. Other offices and other duties in the Sabbath School are subsiding to this. Let me urge you to magnify your office. It is of God, not of men. What are we to teach, you say? Let's ask the Savior himself this question. In his last commission to his disciples, he says: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe ALL THINGS, WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU."

Your work then in simple terms, is to teach others about Christ. It all centres in him. The teacher of Jesus Christ is standing between God and man, between immortal life and the immortal soul. He is the medium of communication, and the channel of connection between the two. When you are before your class, you are there to represent Christ to them, to teach them the beauty of his character, the completeness of His sacrifice, His love, His grace and His saving power. The task is serious, the issues involved are tremendous, and nothing amazes me more than the lightness of heart, and the frivolous manners with which some teachers go about their work.

Mr. Wm. D. Keiley, of Pennsylvania, after prospecting in the South said: 'The states south of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi, with the half million square miles of area, contain a wealth great enough for a continent, a wealth so vast, so varied in its elements and character, so advantageously placed for development, that these states alone can sustain a population far greater than the population of the United States to-day." And I have no doubt in my mind the truthfulness of this statement. The influx of population into this section within the next few years will be astounding. Then let us wake up and be ready to invite them into a Christian community, one that is filled with such strong convictions of truth and righteousness that as they come we shall be able to teach them of the riches in Christ Jesus our

Lord. Our work is noble, our calling high, our reward life everlasting.

"Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for every fate,
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait."

Respectfully submitted,

R. E. PETTUS,
PERRY HENDERSON,
FRANK BUNNELL.

The subject was discussed at length by Bro. R. E. Pettus and Rev. F. M. Roberts, of the Methodist Church. At the close of these two fine speeches, the report was adopted.

It now being the hour for preaching, Eld. J. W. Sandlin took the stand and after singing, read as a lesson 4th chapter Epistle of John and followed by prayer. The text is contained in the 5th chapter of 2nd Corinthians, 14th and 15th verses.

At close of sermon a collection was taken up for missions which amounted to \$7.67.

By request the door of the Church was opened and one member received into Mt. Pisgah Church by letter.

The Moderator then announced that business of this Association was through and we now stood adjourned to meet with Piney Grove Church on Thursday before the third Sunday in Sept. 1899.

Benediction by Eld. J. W. Sandlin.

J. P. HAMPTON, Moderator.
PERRY HENDERSON, Clerk.

STATISTICS OF THE LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1898.

CHURCHES,	COUNTY,	PASTOR,	CLERK,	CLERK'S P. O.	Membership last reported.	Increase.		Decrease by		SUNDAY SCHOOL.	
						By Baptism.	By Letter.	By Voucher.	By Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.
Bethel	Madison	W. P. Webster	Hulen	22	1	2	30	4	35	G. W. Webster, Hulen	3rd
Bethel	"	J. W. Hilliard	Center Hill	72	5	1	78	5	35	J. W. Carroll, Center Hill	3rd
Charity East	"	J. A. Erives	New Market	47	6	12	51	11	200	R. E. Pettus, Huntsville	ES
Charity West	"	W. W. Lee	Huntsville	114	4	8	121	18	215	John A. Erwin, Huntsville	ES
First Church	"	J. L. Sproles	"	220	6	18	238	18	40	J. R. Latham, Deposit	2&4
Locust Grove	"	H. E. Rice	Deposit	134	5	1	140	1	51	E. E. Key, Athens	3rd
Mount Pisgah	Limestone	W. H. Pettus	Cartwright	31	1	1	32	5	75	W. L. Hilliard, Kep.	1st
Mount Zion	Madison	J. W. Hilliard	Nebo	300	12	1	311	9	235	J. H. Hammet, Madison	*
Madison	"	W. W. Lee	Madison	29	7	1	36	3	295	8	
Mount Hope	Limestone	C. Kincaid	Logg	15	7	8	22	15			
New Market	Madison	None	New Market	11	1	12	22	12			
New Zion	"	J. W. Hilliard	Nebo	55	5	33	59	7			
Piney Grove	Limestone	N. D. Crocker	Gro	107	5	33	112	1			
Round Island	"	W. T. Cobb	Athens	77	3	12	89	14			
Rice	Madison	H. E. Rice	Athens	53	4	4	57	7			
Union Grove	"	W. T. Jones	New Market	53	4	12	65	1			
Walnut Hill	Limestone	W. M. Manning	Carthage	56	10	1	61	5			
		T. C. Abernathy	Elkmont	158	69	11	169	7			
				158	49	3	161	1			
				158	49	2	163	1			
				158	49	1	164	1			
				158	49	1	165	1			
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				158	49	1	278	1			
				158	49	1	279	1			
				158	49	1	280	1			
				158	49	1	281	1			

*Note—2nd and 3rd Thursday nights.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1898.

*NOTE—Five dollars of this amount was contributed by the Ladies Missionary Society of this church for Miss Willie Kelly.

Sursum Corda

“Lift up your Hearts”

This is the title of the

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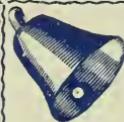
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